

We Want To Hear From You



MESSAGE FROM GENERAL MANAGER AND CEO JERRY D. WILLIAMS

WHETHER WE LIKE IT OR NOT, WE ALL LIVE IN a device-driven world. Smartphones, tablets, laptops and watches help us communicate and connect. Improving our communication is what we are told, when each of these devices are advertised. All the while, companies spend billions of dollars pushing out messages and information to those devices, constantly bombarding us with one-way communications. But is anyone listening on the other end?

At Lamar Electric Cooperative, we are not only listening, we are eager to hear from you. In today's world most companies answer their phone with a recorded greeting and then offer a directory of extension numbers. If I already knew who I wanted to talk with, I would have dialed their direct extension. That is why the phones at Lamar Electric will always be answered by a real live person. Sure, we do use a recorded greeting and we give you the opportunity to Press 1 if you wish to use our automated system to report an outage or make a payment. However, if you don't press anything, you will always get a live person, any time of the day or night.

We added the automated option because many folks simply want to punch in their credit card information for a payment or account number to report an outage and don't really care if they talk to a person. Of course, the automated option quickly frees up the telephone line for those of you that want to talk to us. In order to better serve our members with correct information, the people answering the phone after business hours are for power outages or emergencies and don't have access to information needed to handle billing problems. Whether you call us during business hours, attend a community meeting, send us a private message on Facebook, send an email or simply stop by to chat in person, we thrive on your feedback. Connecting with you helps us keep pace with the priorities of our members and the communities we serve.

Because we are a co-op, we have a different way of operating. Lamar Electric Cooperative exists to provide safe, reliable and affordable energy to you, the members of the co-op. Equally important is our mission to improve the quality of life of the members we serve. We hope you consider us more than just your energy provider. We're also a trusted partner that supports this community and empowers economic development and prosperity.

We do get some rather odd questions and some useful tips. Recently a member pointed out we were sending a return envelope with every paper bill that is bank drafted. Some like to get the paper bill to know the exact amount that will be drafted but a return envelope was a waste. We found a way to eliminate those unneeded envelopes. And yes, we did our best to answer the questions about how to get a brush pile burned, how a gas point-of-use water heater works, most energy efficient gas heaters, will electric fences keep goats in, how to select an energy provider in a town served by Oncor, do electric vehicles actually reduce carbon emissions, etc. etc. Whatever your question, we like to know what concerns you and will always listen.

That's why we create opportunities for you and other community members to give us feedback throughout the year. These include our annual meeting as well as other activities and events. Our focus is directed by local members just like you who understand the needs of our area and are looking out for the long-term interests of the larger community.

Such feedback is especially important now, when we are in the midst of significant changes in the energy sector. Technology and the drive for more renewables and a more balanced energy mix are affecting long-term planning. These are complex issues that we will be navigating in the coming months and years and one reason it's so important that we hear from you as we plot our course for the future. For example, we are considering a solar garden sometime in the future for members that want solar energy but don't have a good place for the panels. This will allow us to fill the needs of members that wish to rent a solar panel while not passing any of the cost to members that are not concerned about going green.

Lamar Electric works continually to learn from our members about their priorities so that we can better serve you—because your electric co-op was built by the community for the community. We can only improve, adapt and effectively plan for the future if communication works both ways.

For our co-op and community to thrive now and in the future, we depend on hearing from you. I hope you will connect with us and let us know your perspective. You can always reach me at Jerry@LamarElectric.coop or 903-783-4914. I'm listening.



1485 N. Main St. • P.O. Box 580
Paris, TX 75461

**GENERAL MANAGER
AND CEO**

Jerry D. Williams

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- George M. Wood, President, Blossom
- Lyle Yoder, Vice President, Pattonville
- Mike Williams, Secretary-Treasurer, Detroit
- Matthew Albus, Roxton
- Allen Branch, Sumner
- James D. Floyd, Annona
- Jeremy D. Hamil, Sumner
- Harry R. Moore, Clarksville
- Ron E. Tippit, Clarksville

Member Benefits

- Level billing
- Automated meter reading
- Free bank draft service
- E-Bill
- Visa and Mastercard accepted

Your Local Pages

This section of *Texas Co-op Power* is produced by LEC each month to provide you with information about current events, safety, special programs and other activities of the cooperative. If you have any comments or suggestions, please contact the local office.

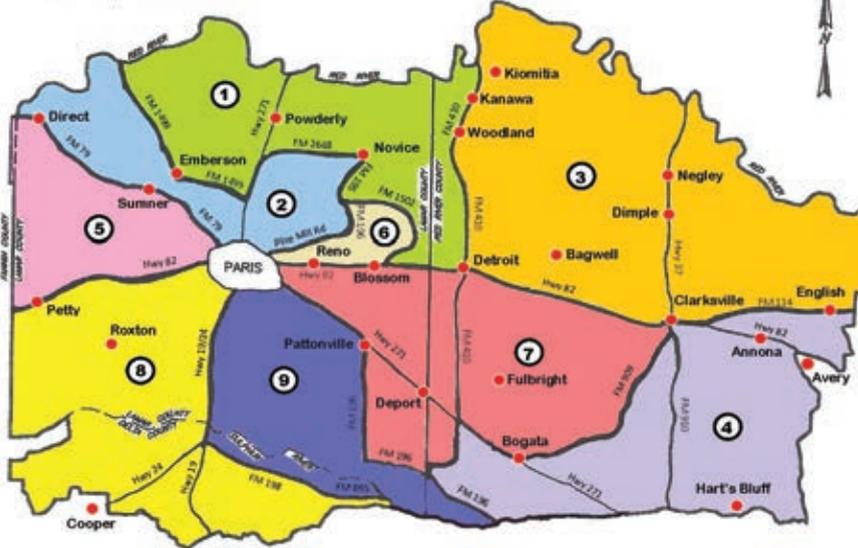
CONTACT US

CALL US
(903) 784-4303

FIND US ON THE WEB
www.lamarelectric.coop



Circled Number represents Board District

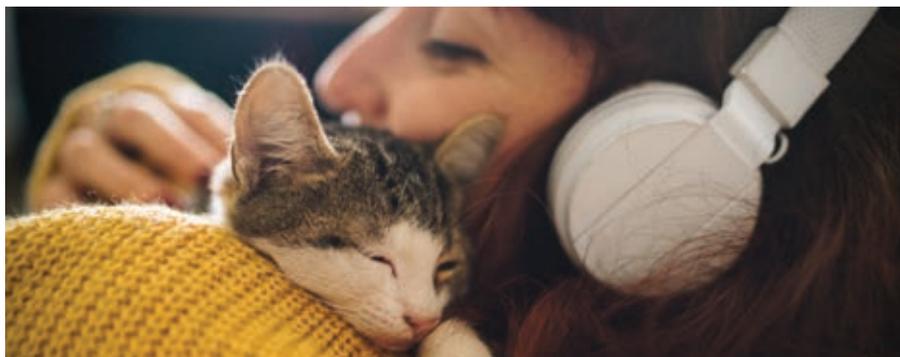


Save the Date!

Annual meeting set for April 18

THREE POSITIONS ON THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS ARE UP FOR ELECTION EACH YEAR.

This year, Districts 1, 8 and 9 will be voting at the annual meeting. Any member residing in Districts 1, 8 and 9 who wishes to be a candidate for one of the three available board positions must appear in person at the main office of the cooperative to fill out a nomination form not earlier than January 19 and no later than February 18, as outlined in the co-op's bylaws. If you are unsure of which district you live in, please refer to the district map below. Lamar Electric will hold its annual meeting at 10 a.m., Saturday, April 18, at Paris Love Civic Center, 2025 S. Collegiate Drive in Paris. If you have any questions, call Laura Williams at (903) 783-4907. Qualifications for board members are specified in our bylaws. The qualification portion of the bylaws was published last month in this magazine. A copy of the bylaws are available at the Lamar Electric Office and on our website, www.lamarelectric.coop.



Power Tip

Setting your heater's temperature higher than needed won't make it warm up your home any faster, but it will waste electricity.

MARTIN-DUNN | ISTOCK.COM

Youth Tour Application Deadline Is Near

EACH YEAR, LAMAR ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE SELECTS TWO HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS TO attend the Government-in-Action Youth Tour, an all-expenses-paid trip to Washington, D.C., that includes visiting the U.S. Capitol and meeting members of Congress.

Eligible students must be in 10th, 11th or 12th grade and live full time in a residence served by Lamar Electric or attend one of the three high schools served by the co-op: Prairiland, Detroit and New Hope Christian. Home-schooled students served by the co-op are also eligible.

Applications must include a three-page typed essay. The essay topic this year is, "What would life be like without electricity?" The essay must be submitted to Lamar Electric no later than **5 p.m. Friday, February 7.**

The application is available on the Lamar Electric website, lamarelectric.coop. Submit by email to **dctrip@lamarelectric.coop** or in person at **1485 N. Main St.** in Paris. It's that easy! Learn more about Youth Tour at lamarelectric.coop. Look for Youth Tour after clicking on the Youth tab.



ADAMKAZ | ISTOCK.COM

Lamar Electric To Award \$6,000 in Scholarships

ATTENTION, HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS!

Don't forget to enter for a chance to win one of six \$1,000 scholarships to be given away at the Lamar Electric Cooperative annual meeting, Saturday, April 18.

The scholarship application deadline is April 3. For more information and an application form, visit lamarelectric.coop and apply today. You can also email Kristen Bollman for an application at kristen@lamarelectric.coop.



OLEA WERKASOVA | ISTOCK.COM



JOECHO-16 | ISTOCK.COM

LAMAR ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE 2020 YOUTH TOUR APPLICATION

DEADLINE: FEBRUARY 7

NAME _____

PHONE NUMBER _____

EMAIL ADDRESS _____

PARENT(S)/GUARDIAN(S) NAME(S) _____

ADDRESS _____

NAME OF HIGH SCHOOL _____

LAMAR ELECTRIC ACCOUNT NO. _____

Applicants hereby acknowledge that the application essay becomes the property of Lamar Electric Cooperative and may be published.

SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____

Linemen Train for Emergencies



BY KRISTEN BOLLMAN

LAMAR ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE HOLDS TRAINING SESSIONS

throughout the year to ensure its linemen are prepared for any emergency that could occur on the job. Our linemen work 24 hours a day, 365 days a year to keep electricity flowing, often working with thousands of volts of electricity while 30 feet in the air. They face risks that include falls from heights, electric shocks, burns and other injuries while on the job every day—and these incidents can be fatal.

That's why each Lamar Electric crew carries an automated external defibrillator in a supervisor's truck.

Recently, Lamar Electric held a pole-top rescue training course to prepare linemen to rescue a person who has been injured. The electric cooperative's goal is to train all linemen to rescue an injured individual from a pole quickly so their fellow employees can begin administering CPR or first aid immediately. The linemen's objective is to complete the rescue within four minutes in order to avoid any brain damage due to lack of oxygen to the injured individual. In the recently completed timed rescue test, every Lamar Electric lineman completed the task in less than 2½ minutes.

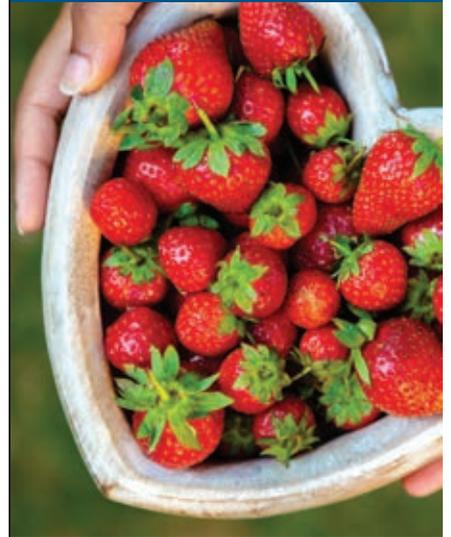
When linemen work with a live—or energized—line, they cover the wire with a rubber line hose and rubber blankets to work safely on the equipment. In the past, linemen have been called to restore safety to a scene after a fallen pole with live wires has trapped a passenger inside a vehicle.

“Linemen are often first responders during storms and other catastrophic events, working to make the scene safe for other public safety workers,” said Jerry Williams, general manager and CEO. “We conduct training exercises for our employees to develop a safety culture where linemen are prepared to handle an emergency effectively.”

In addition, all Lamar Electric linemen are trained in many other safety procedures to prevent accidents on the job. They are trained to cut trees so they fall without creating additional hazards, properly mix herbicides, use an AED, administer basic first aid and perform CPR.



RECIPE OF THE MONTH



DARREN BAKER | ISTOCK.COM

Chocolate Strawberries Romanoff

- ½ cup sour cream
- 3 tablespoons brown sugar
- ¼ cup chocolate syrup
- 1 tablespoon cognac
- ½ cup heavy cream
- 3 tablespoons sugar
- 4 cups (2 pints) strawberries

1. Mix sour cream, brown sugar, chocolate syrup and cognac in a medium bowl.
2. In a separate bowl, whip the heavy cream until it starts to thicken. Add sugar and whip until thick.
3. Fold whipped cream into the sour cream mixture until well blended.
4. Clean and core the strawberries. Put about ½ cup of berries each into 8 wine glasses. Divide sauce equally among glasses.

► Serves 8.

COOK'S TIP You can substitute vanilla extract for the cognac.

Find this and more delicious recipes online at
TEXASCOOPPOWER.COM